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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic device network system comprising:
 - an electronic device for transmitting data via a network;
 - a plurality of storing means for storing data transmitted from the electronic device; and
 - a plurality of external devices for acquiring data from the storing means and processing the acquired data; and;
 - a setting section for setting a security level for the data to be transmitted, the set security level being selected by a user from a plurality of identified security levels,
 - the network connecting the electronic device, the storing means, and the external devices to one another,
 - wherein the electronic device, at least one of the plurality of storing means, and at least one of the external devices each have a security function and an associated security level.

2. (Currently Amended) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein:
 - the plurality of storing means includes a first storing means having a first higher security level, and a second storing means having a second lower security level, the first security level being higher than the second security level,
 - the electronic device includes a setting section for enabling a user to set a security level for transmitted data, and
 - the electronic device network system further comprises a search means for searching the plurality of storing means to identify a given for a storing means whose according to the security level corresponds to the security level set in the setting section, so that the transmitted data corresponding to the set security level is received by the given storing means so searched.

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3. (Original) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 2, wherein the first storing means transmits data by encrypting the data, and the second storing means transmits data without encrypting the data.

4. (Original) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 2, wherein the first storing means is connected to the Internet via a firewall that limits access from devices on the Internet, and the second storing means is connected to the Internet without the firewall.

5. (Original) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 2, wherein the first storing means does not have access to the Internet, and the second storing means have access to the Internet.

6. (Original) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the electronic device, at least one of the plurality of storing means, and at least one of the external devices each have a communications function for encrypted data.

7. (Original) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 1, further comprising search means for searching for an electronic device, a storing means, and an external device according to the respective associated security level security levels of the respective security functions of the electronic device, at least one of the plurality of storing means, and at least one of the plurality of external devices.

8. (Original) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 1, further comprising search means for searching for an external device according to locations or functions of the external devices.

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9. (Currently Amended) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 7, wherein the search means further includes means searches for searching for a transmission route of the transmitted data from the electronic device to the storing means or the external devices.

10. (Currently Amended) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the search means searches further includes means for searching for a transmission route of the transmitted data from the electronic device to the storing means or the external devices.

11. (Currently Amended) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of the external devices each include includes a search section for searching for a storing means whose associated security level matches the associated a security level of one of the plurality of external devices which is making such a search at external device making the search.

12. (Currently Amended) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 7, claim 1, wherein the electronic device includes a displaying means for displaying a result of search made by a search means according to search conditions.

13. (Currently Amended) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the respective associated security level functions of the electronic device, at least one of the plurality of storing means, and at least one of the plurality of external devices is further established based are rendered depending on whether the electronic device, the storing means, and the external devices belong to which of a plurality of networks that are connected to one another via access control means.

14. (Original) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of the external devices comprises an image forming device.

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15. (Original) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the electronic device comprises a scanner.

16. (Original) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 14, wherein the electronic device comprises a scanner.

17. (Currently Amended) A data receiver search system comprising:
a plurality of storing means with different security levels for storing data, each storing means having a different security level associated therewith;
a plurality of external devices for acquiring data from the storing means and processing the acquired data;
an electronic device connected to the storing means and the external devices via a network; and
a search device, connected being connected to the electronic device, for searching for a storing means that satisfies a predetermined condition,
wherein the electronic device includes: including:
_____ a transmission section for transmitting data to the storing means, and, and
_____ a setting section for setting a security level, selected by a user from a plurality of identified security levels, for the data to be transmitted, enabling a user to set a security level for transmitted data;
wherein the search device includes including a search section for searching the plurality of for a storing means to identify a given storing means whose respective associated according to the security level corresponds to the set security level set in the setting section, so that the transmitted data corresponding to the set security level is received by the given storing means, so searched;

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18. (Currently Amended) A data receiver search method using an electronic device network system that comprises:

an electronic device for transmitting data via a network;

a plurality of storing means for storing data transmitted from the electronic device; and

a plurality of external devices for acquiring data from the storing means and processing the acquired data,

the network connecting the electronic device, the storing means, and the external devices to one another, and

the electronic device, at least one of the plurality of storing means, and at least one of the external devices each having a security function and an associated security level; and;

wherein said data receiver search method includes the steps of:

(a) setting a security level for the data to be transmitted, the set security level being selected by a user from a plurality of identified security levels;

(b) searching for a given storing means and a given external device whose respective associated security level security functions match a the security level set in step (a) set by a user, when the electronic device transmits data.

19. (Currently Amended) The data receiver search method as set forth in claim 18, wherein said searching includes searching the search for an external device is made according to a location or functions of the external device.

20. (Currently Amended) The data receiver search method as set forth in claim 18, wherein the method searches said searching includes searching for a transmission route of the transmitted data from the electronic device to the storing means or the external devices.

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21. (Currently Amended) The data receiver search method as set forth in claim 18,
further comprising the steps of:

~~wherein the method prohibits transmission of data to the electronic device, the storing means, and the external devices when the respective security levels of the electronic device, the storing means, and the external devices do not match the security level set by the user;~~

~~prohibiting transmission of data from the electronic device or from the storing means when the when the respective associated security levels of the electronic device, the storing means, and the external devices do not match the desired security level as established by the user; and~~

~~allowing transmission of data from the given storing means to the given external device when the when the respective associated security levels of the electronic device, the storing means, and the external devices match the desired security level.~~

22. (Currently Amended) The data receiver search method as set forth in claim 21,
~~wherein wherein when stored data in a storing means needs to be outputted from an external device and the but an external device and the a storing means storing necessary the stored data have different associated security levels so that the stored data is prevented from being transmitted from the storing means to the external device, said data receiver search method further comprises the step of:~~

~~repeating said step of searching to identify the search means searches for an another given external device whose associated security level matches the associated security level of the storing means storing the necessary stored data.~~